<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 21, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 15-18 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 8 and 15-18 are in independent form.

Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,560,575 (*Keiller*). Claims 4-7 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Keiller* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,841 (*Yu*). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

Amended Claim 1 relates to an apparatus for recording speech to be used as learning data for recognizing input speech, comprising storage means for storing a recording character string indicating a sentence to be recorded, recognition means for recognizing input speech for use as the learning data so as to obtain a recognized character string corresponding to the stored recording character string, determination means for comparing a pattern of the recognized character string with a pattern of the recording character string stored in the storage means so as to obtain a matching rate therebetween, and for determining whether the matching rate exceeds a predetermined level, and recording means for recording the input speech as the learning data for recognizing speech when it is determined by the determination means that the matching rate exceeds the predetermined level.

By this arrangement, speech recognition on input speech to obtain a recognized character string corresponding to a stored recording character is used to determine whether to record input speech as the learning data for recognizing speech.

In contrast, the patent to *Keiller* is understood to both store training examples and perform speech recognition, *without making the storing operation depend on the outcome of the speech recognition.* More specifically, this patent is understood to teach the performing of speech recognition by comparing an input utterance with stored word models (column 16, lines 16-22). But nowhere is the patent understood to disclose that this speech recognition operation determines the storing of input speech as learning data, as required by amended Claim 1. In addition, the patent to *Keiller* is also understood to teach the storing of training examples if they are consistent by comparing the two training examples (column 14, line 56 through column 15, line 35). But, the comparing of the two training examples uttered by a user does not constitute the performance of speech recognition because such a comparison of two utterances is not the same as obtaining a recognized character string corresponding to a stored recording character string, as recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore the storing of the two training examples does not occur after speech recognition is performed on those training examples as recited in amended Claim 1.

To illustrate some of these differences, Applicant refers the Examiner to the attached explanatory figures, which compare part of the process performed by the present invention to the process performed by the *Keiller* patent as discussed at column 15, lines 25-35. As shown in the explanatory figures, speech recognition is not performed on the two utterances of the training examples before they are stored.

Accordingly, amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by the *Keiller* patent. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn. And because Claims 8 and 15-18 recite similar features, they are allowable for similar reasons.
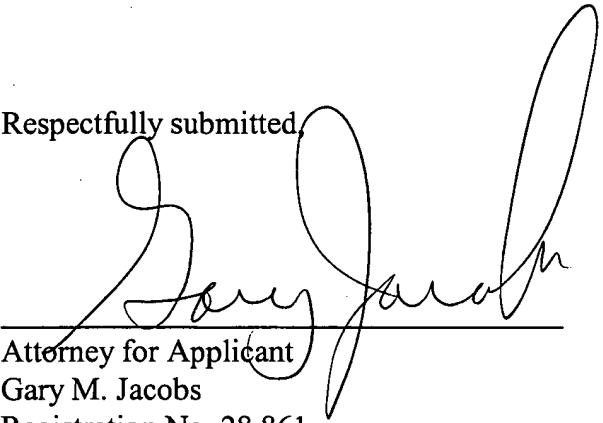
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least (a) the same reasons as pertain to the independent claims and (b) the reasons set forth above pertaining to the dependent claims. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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Our patent

Prompts (sentences to be recorded)

sentence
(character)

utterance → recognition means

recognition result
(character)

→ determination means
(compare the recognition result and the
sentences with character string level)

→ recording means

Keiller

1st utterance → 1st sequence receiving means

1st speech representative
(acoustic parameter)

2nd utterance → 2nd sequence receiving means

2st speech representative
(acoustic parameter)

→ matching means
(compare the 1st speech representative
and the 2nd speech representative with
acoustic parameter level)